Photo: Toronto Star

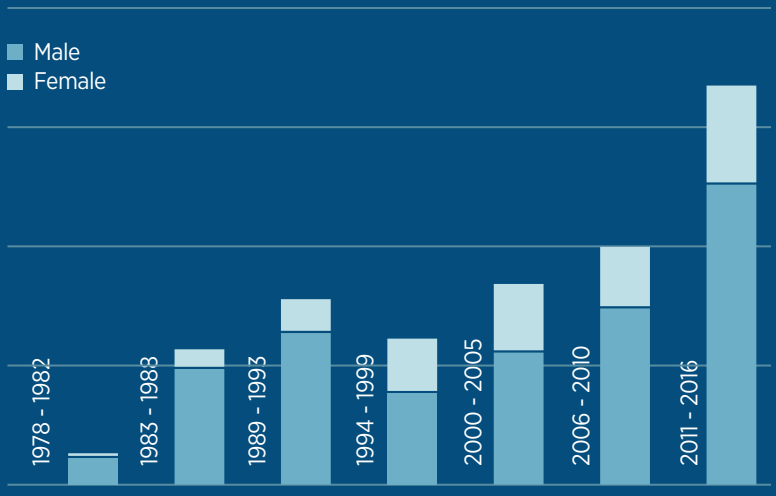
WUSC EUMC

THE STUDENT REFUGEE PROGRAM

PROVIDING RESETTLEMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND HOPE FOR REFUGEE YOUTH.

WUSC's **Student Refugee Program (SRP)** is the only program of its kind to combine opportunities for resettlement and higher education. Operating since 1978, the SRP has supported more than 1,700 young refugees from 39 countries of origin to resettle and study at over 80 universities, colleges, and CEGEPS across Canada. The SRP rests upon a unique peer-to-peer model which engages young global citizens on Canadian campuses to welcome and facilitate the integration of newly arrived students.

YEAR ARRIVED IN CANADA



IN 2016 ALONE, THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS SUPPORTED GREW BY **63%**

This growth was supported in large part by a renewed sense of urgency among the Canadian post-secondary community and broader Canadian public to accelerate Canada's response to the global refugee crisis.

Country of Origin
Afghanistan
Angola
Argentina
Bhutan
Bosnia & Herzegovina
Burma/ Myanmar
Burundi
Comores Islands
Congo
Czech Republic*
DRC
El Salvador
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Ghana
Guatemala
Iran
Iraq
Kenya
Lesotho
Liberia
Malawi
Palestine
Rwanda
Sierra Leone
Somalia
South Sudan
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Syria
Uganda

*Current name

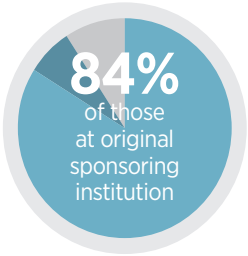
Country of Asylum
Botswana
Djibouti
Gambia
Ghana
India
Jordan
Kenya
Lebanon
Malawi
Malaysia
Pakistan
Rwanda
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Sudan
Swaziland
Syria
Thailand
Uganda
Zaire/DRC
Zimbabwe

About the Outcomes

The outcomes presented in this report are taken from two sources: the SRP database and an SRP Survey, conducted in May 2017. The SRP database is used to monitor information relevant to SRP students during the selection, immigration, and arrival period in Canada. The SRP Survey was conducted online and sought to capture students' and alumni's experiences since arriving in Canada. The results of this survey are intended to guide WUSC's learning and future improvements to the program. The survey was sent by WUSC to SRP students and alumni for whom WUSC had email addresses (991 individuals, 353 of whom responded). The SRP Survey was anonymous, voluntary, and none of the questions were mandatory to complete. When appropriate, data presented from the SRP Survey excludes responses from students who arrived after 2012, as we assume that these respondents are still completing their studies.

GRADUATION COMPLETION RATE

9 IN 10
completed a degree since arriving in Canada



90%
of students complete their initial studies
WITHOUT INTERRUPTION

65%
of students whose studies are interrupted complete their studies at a later date.

Major reasons include:

- Cost of living
- Cost of study
- Taking care of family members

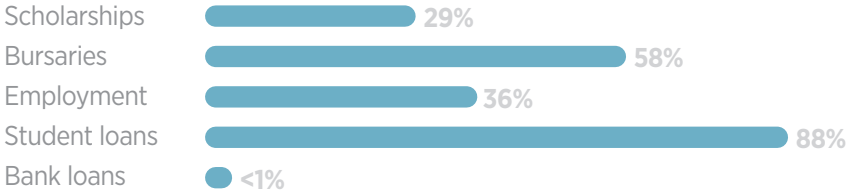
Students sponsored through the SRP arrive in Canada as **permanent residents**. This status enables them to access various funding options to continue their studies after their first year of sponsorship, including financial aid, awards, and employment. These are the same options commonly accessed by Canadian students.

EMPLOYMENT

2 OUT OF 3
SECURE
employment during their first year of study

FUNDING EDUCATION

TYPES OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT
Accessed after Sponsorship



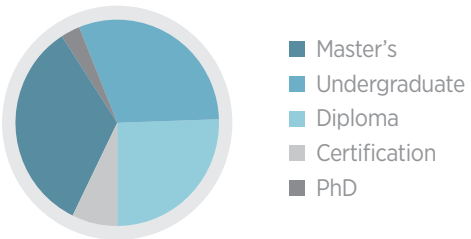
FURTHERING EDUCATION

58% PURSUE ADDITIONAL POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Business was the most common field of additional study, including MBAs and accounting designations.

Business is the most common sector of employment

The majority of those who pursue further education enrol in diploma, undergraduate, or master's degree. 66% say their education is related to their field of employment.

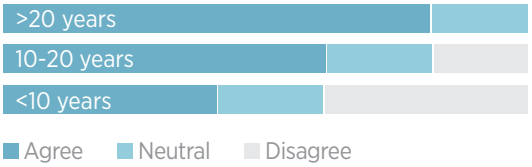


EMPLOYMENT IN CANADA

3 OUT OF 4 are currently **EMPLOYED**

Nearly **66%** of the respondents are satisfied with their jobs

Job satisfaction increases as more time is spent in Canada



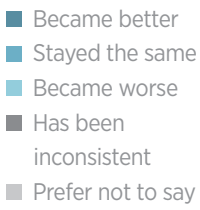
FAMILY SPONSORSHIP AND REMITTANCES

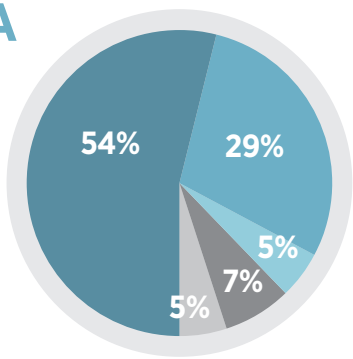
29% of former students **SPONSOR** family members

33% of former students **PLAN TO SPONSOR** family members in the future

MENTAL HEALTH

SINCE ARRIVING IN CANADA mental health has:





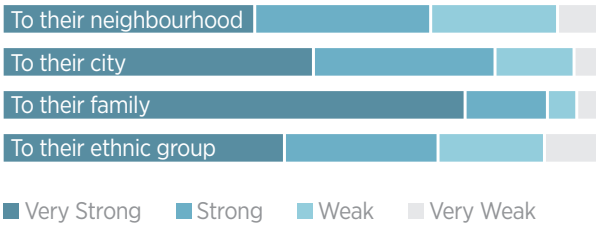
CONNECTEDNESS TO CANADA

8 IN 10 hold Canadian citizenship

- **60%** Reside in city of original sponsorship
- **30%** Reside in a different city
- **10%** Reside in different country

93% Felt a sense of **BELONGING** to Canada

Contributing factors inclide: employment status, mental health and job satisfaction



WUSC (World University Service of Canada) is a Canadian non-profit organization improving education, employment, and empowerment opportunities for youth. We engage a diverse network of students, skilled volunteers, development agents, institutions, governments, and businesses. Together, we foster youth-centred solutions to overcome inequality and exclusion around the world.

Thank you to our funders
Our work s is possible only with the generous support of our funders.

For a complete list, please visit **srp.wusc.ca**

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1404 Scott | Ottawa, ON | Canada | K1Y 4M8
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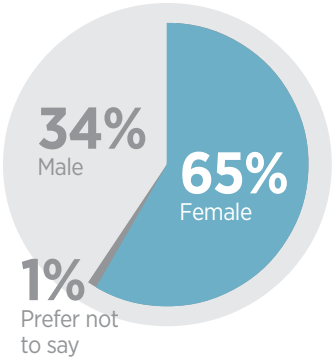
WUSC LOCAL COMMITTEES

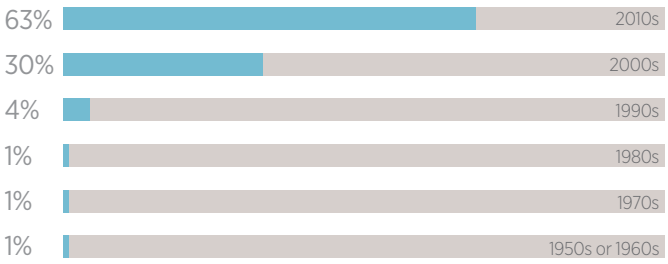
MOBILIZING A GENERATION OF GLOBAL THINKERS AND DEVELOPMENT CHANGEMAKERS

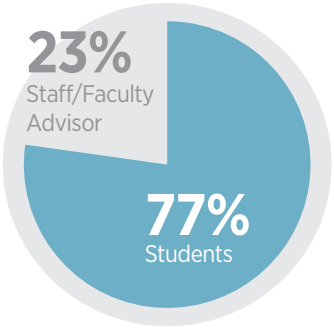
Active on more than 80 campuses across Canada, WUSC Local Committees are campus-based groups of students, faculty, and staff who mobilize support for global development and foster more welcoming communities for refugees and newcomers. Through awareness raising events, fundraising, and the sponsorship of refugee youth to Canadian colleges, universities, and CEGEPs, WUSC Local Committee members deepen their understanding of sustainable development while shaping more global thinkers around them.

ABOUT THE RESPONDENTS



WHEN THEY JOINED WUSC





OVERALL IMPACT

77% of members and alumni report **IMPROVED** academic experience

79% of members and alumni say that their **INVOLVEMENT** with WUSC influenced their identity as global citizens

About the Outcomes

The figures presented here are compiled from the results of an online survey, conducted in October/November 2017, which sought to capture the experiences of WUSC Local Committee members and how their involvement with WUSC influenced their decisions later in life. The survey was sent by WUSC to alumni for whom WUSC had email addresses (991 individuals, 353 of whom responded). The survey was anonymous, voluntary, and none of the questions were mandatory to complete.

EMPLOYMENT

IMPACT ON CAREERS

Members and alumni report their involvement with WUSC influencing their education and career choices later in life.

70% shaped their career objectives
62% influenced their career path
55% influenced their academic path

56% influenced their decision to pursue additional studies
44% made professional connections

4 OUT OF 5

MEMBERS AND ALUMNI DEVELOPED

SKILLS

THAT WERE USEFUL TO THEIR CAREER

These skills include: leadership, interpersonal skills, cross-cultural communication, networking

KNOWLEDGE ACQUIRED

93% of members and alumni report a

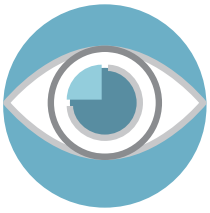
GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF GLOBAL ISSUES

through their involvement with WUSC including:

- Newcomer settlement and integration
- Broader global issues
- Cultures other than their own

Members and alumni also reported

INCREASED AWARENESS AMONG THEIR NETWORKS



82% friends
72% family
53% classmates
47% coworkers
10% faith groups

POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING

OF THE 83%

OF MEMBERS AND ALUMNI WHO VOTE IN ELECTIONS

86% say policies that promote the protection, inclusion, and integration of refugees inform how they vote
86% say policies impacting international assistance inform how they vote

LASTING COMMITMENTS

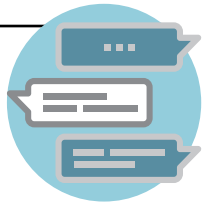
74% OF ALUMNI

REMAIN ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN GLOBAL ISSUES

34% volunteer in their community to support newcomer settlement and integration
19% sponsor refugees outside of the SRP

9 OUT OF 10

alumni stay connected with other members after graduation



86%

STAY CONNECTED

with former refugees they helped sponsor

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